Archaeology of Eastern North American

Anthropology 420/520

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Objectives: To gain an understanding of prehistoric culture change in eastern North America (east of the Mississippi River) from the Paleoindian through Mississippian periods. A series of problem oriented topics will be discussed for each prehistoric period, including chronology, climate change, subsistence, settlement, and socio-political organization.


Requirements: Chapters in the text will be assigned each week and additional reading will be assigned on specific topics. Reading lists will be available on my web page.

There will be four written assignments: 1) a take home mid-term essay based on the readings in the first half of the semester (Due: October 12th), that will form the basis for your mid-term grade; 2) two article reports 4-5 pages double spaced—detailed instructions will be provided later; 3) the final is take-home essay based on topics covered in the second half of the semester (Due: December 12th).

Note: Graduate students will be assigned additional readings and will be expected to consult sources other than those explicitly assigned in completing the writing assignments. In addition to the above requirements a 10 page research paper is also required and additional questions will be included on the two take-home essays.

Field Trip: Optional (extra credit) visit to a prehistoric site in Indiana the latter part of September or early October (date to be determined); most likely on a Saturday.

Grade: The two take home exams: 25% each; book/article report: 20% each; and attendance: 10%. Attendance is crucial and chronic absenteeism will count heavily against you in determining your final grade.
Anth 420/520 (cont.)

Outline:

1. PALEOINDIAN--glacial hunters (weeks 1-2)
   1. Pleistocene Environments and Climate
   2. Pre-Clovis
   3. Clovis and Late Paleoindian
   4. Dalton

2. EARLY ARCHAIC--mobile foragers (weeks 3-4)
   1. Early to Mid Holocene Climate
   2. Kirk/Thebes

3. MIDDLE ARCHAIC—mobile foragers but where are they?? (week 5)
   1. Koster Middle Archaic
   2. Caesars Knob Creek

4. LATE ARCHAIC--intensive collectors (weeks 6-7)
   1. Helton/Green River Archaic
   2. Riverton
   3. Poverty Point

5. EARLY WOODLAND--ceramics (weeks 8-9)
   1. Marion
   2. Adena

6. MIDDLE WOODLAND—pan-regional exchange and burial cults (weeks 10-12)
   1. Ohio Hopewell
   2. Illinois Hopewell

7. LATE WOODLAND--period of decline?? (week 13)
   1. Albee
   2. Proto-Mississippian

8. MISSISSIPPIAN/FT ANCIENT--chiefdoms and agriculture (weeks 14-15)
   1. Cahokia
   2. Southeastern Chiefdoms
   3. Oliver
   4. Caborn-Welborn

Milner Readings

Ch 1,2
Ch 2
Ch 3
Ch 3
Ch 4
Ch 4
Ch 5
6,7